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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/16/97

18 March 1997

Further information (2) on UA 06/97 (ASA 21/01/97, 8 January) and follow-up ASA 21/01/97, 12 February - Fear of Torture

EAST TIMOR

Baltasar Sebastiao H Belo
Jose Maria Geronimo
Joao Budiono C Moraes (Joao Budiono da Costa)
Gregorio Sequira Bento
Luis Afonso
Abel Fernandes
Felciano Maria martins
Oracio Viegas
Celestino Soares
Claudino Guterres (alias Alau)
Jose do Rosario
Constancio Soares

Twelve people arrested in relation to disturbances in the East Timor capital of Dili on 24 December 1996 are still detained. All twelve are reported to have been charged under Articles 351 and 154 of Indonesia's Criminal Code (KUHP) and not under Article 170 as originally thought. Article 351 punishes violence resulting in serious physical injury with five years' imprisonment; those resulting in death are punished by seven years' imprisonment. Under Article 154, anyone found guilty of expressing "feelings of hostility, hatred or contempt" against the government can be imprisoned for up to seven years. Article 154 has been widely used in Indonesia and East Timor to imprison prisoners of conscience. It is not clear why Article 154 is being used in this context but Amnesty International is seeking clarification that none of those detained have been charged for their peaceful opposition to Indonesian rule in East Timor.

All twelve detainees are being held in Becora prison, Dili.

No further action is required at present.

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